

REMARKS

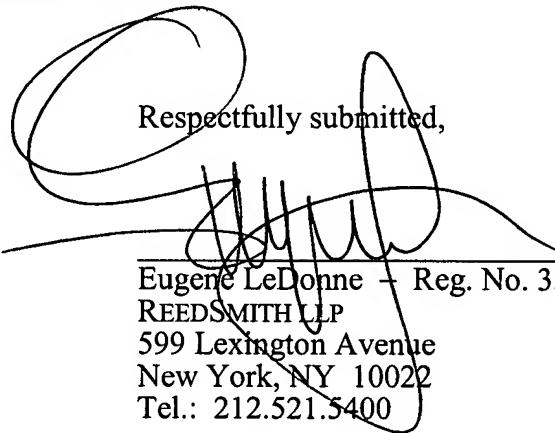
The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-5, 13-15, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the article by González et al. (1996) (“González”). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-12, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over the article by Yuan et al. (1995) (“Yuan”). The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-12, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over the article by Wilk et al. (1995) (“Wilk”). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1-12, 25, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the article by Royer et al. (1996) (“Royer”).

Claims 1-12, 17-20, and 25-28 have been canceled. Claims 13, 15, 21, and 23 have been currently amended. Claims 13-16 and 21-24 are currently pending. The following remarks are considered by applicant to overcome each of the Examiner's outstanding rejections to current claims 13-16 and 21-24. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

This Response has been submitted along with an RCE. All of the claims that the Examiner had rejected in the prior office action have been canceled. Applicants now wish to proceed with claims 13-16 and 21-24, which have not been previously examined. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 13-16 and 21-24 are in allowable form.

Based upon the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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